

are missing as a result of the 20-year conflict.

I personally visited with 84 Moroccan POW's military personnel who have been freed by Western Sahara as a gesture of goodwill and whom the kingdom of Morocco will not permit to return to their country.

On my visit to the refugee camps, I met with an organization which tracks missing Sahrawis. 526 Sahrawis remain among the disappeared. They are either prisoners held by Morocco or are missing, all held incommunicado by Morocco.

In a country like Morocco, which is a friend of the United States, it is strange to hear reports of such clear violations to fundamental human rights as to not identify POWs and missing people.

I urge the Kingdom of Morocco to reconsider their policy and identify all those held incommunicado as well as accept back their own military which have been freed by Western Sahara.

ONLY ONE PARTY SERIOUS ABOUT EDUCATION REFORM

(Mr. EWING asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. EWING. Mr. Speaker, the truth is now known to the whole world. One party in this body is serious about education reform, and the other is not. On July 21 of this year, President Clinton vetoed Education Savings Account legislation that would have allowed parents to save more for their children's education.

We have here a classic case of special interest politics. The big donor special interests win while the children trapped in dangerous schools lose. What can we say to these children who are in terrible schools who the only thing they demand is to have the opportunity to pursue the American dream?

Many people are able to send their children to private school or live in areas with excellent schools. What are they going to say to these children who do not have the same chance? Maybe that is a question better directed to the administration and to others who failed to back real education reform.

TALK ABOUT EDUCATION REFORM IS NOTHING BUT TALK

(Mr. TIAHRT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, on July 21, President Clinton showed the entire world that all talk about education reform is nothing but talk. The President's veto of the Education Savings Account legislation that passed both Houses of Congress is clear evidence that one party is beholden to special interests who benefit from the status quo.

□ 1015

Education failure is virtually in every city in America. The liberals accept that failure in our education system year after year after year. The rhetoric is fine and wonderful sounding, repair crumbling schools, spend more money, hire more teachers, but nothing seems to change.

Mr. Speaker, Republicans have a better idea. Republicans believe that accountability and competition in the marketplace produce excellence in the auto industry, in the computer industry, and in manufacturing of consumer goods. Why should education be any different?

If we believe in accountability and if we believe in excellence, not in words but in practice, then I would urge my colleagues to vote to override the President's veto and overcome the status quo by making education savings accounts the law of the land.

THE STATE OF ONTOLOGICAL RAMBLINGS

(Mr. STEARNS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, the state of disbelief continues to grow in this town the longer Mike McCurry pretends to inform the public of any factual information regarding the investigation of Judge Starr.

His penchant for passing on ill-informed statements to pass as answers to the American people will now be known as "McCurryism," a new word I am coining today. This is a word which means to pretend shock at the suggestion of impropriety by a reporter's question and then answer that question with nothing but pure spin.

For instance, a McCurryism from January 21, 1998: "The President is outraged by these allegations. He has never had any improper relationship with this woman. He has made it clear from the beginning that he wants people to tell the truth on all matters."

Another McCurryism from yesterday: "I can only report what I can ontologically know."

Well, Mr. McCurry, no amount of metaphysical existentialism can pass as answer to the question: What exactly was the nature of the relationship with the President and one of his female interns?

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DICKEY). The gentleman should avoid personal references to the President.

SOCIAL SECURITY

(Mr. SMITH of Michigan asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I want to talk about Social Security.

Mr. Speaker, when I first came here 5½ years ago, we were not only borrowing a great deal from the Social Security Trust Fund, but we had an additional deficit spending that approached \$300 billion.

Now, this year, we are not only going to have a zero deficit under the traditional way that we calculated deficit spending, but this year, if we have just a little bit of luck, we are going to have a real balanced budget. That means that we may have balance not considering the \$80 billion that government is borrowing from the Social Security Trust Fund. This is one of the best years in the history of this country in terms of revenues exceeding expenditures. This year we might exceed \$80 billion in terms of the unified budget. That means a real, honest balanced budget without the Social Security surplus.

I think it is very important that in the future we start changing the way that we do business. We stop fooling people, we stop borrowing from the Social Security Trust Fund, and consider that revenue as a way to mask the deficit. A real balanced budget is when we reach balance, not including that amount borrowed from the trust fund. My bill HR 4033 does that and I invite my colleagues to co-sponsor.

REAL EDUCATION REFORM FOR AMERICANS

(Mr. PAPPAS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, on July 21, the President vetoed a bill that would have helped millions of American families save for the education needs of their children. I would like to invite my colleagues on the other side to listen carefully, because this issue crystallizes beautifully the differences between the two parties.

I said that the bill that the President vetoed would have helped "millions of American families." We make no reference to the income of families because the bill would help all families save, rich or poor. The President and the Democrats, of course, on this and other issues, immediately turned the issue into a class warfare issue, and if a single family of wealth would benefit, brand the bill as a tax break for the wealthy.

The Democrats cannot, on principle, support a bill that will help families, families plain and simple, even if millions of middle class and poor families would benefit, because the idea that a wealthy family might also benefit is simply unacceptable. Children of middle class parents will be the losers and real education reform will continue to be nothing more than class warfare rhetoric.

SUNDRY MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Sundry messages in writing from the President of the United States were